

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to MDH for the week ending October 26, 2019



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to Maryland Department of Health (MDH) for the week ending October 26, 2019

Prepared by the Division of Infectious Disease Surveillance
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health

*The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports are received.
Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.*

SUMMARY

During the week ending October 26, 2019 influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **SPORADIC** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers and the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Maryland Emergency Departments increased. The number of percent positive specimens in clinical laboratories reported this week is similar to last week and the majority of positives continues to be Influenza Type B. MDH laboratory confirmed two influenza positive specimens. There was one outbreaks of pneumonia and one adult influenza-associated hospitalization death reported.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

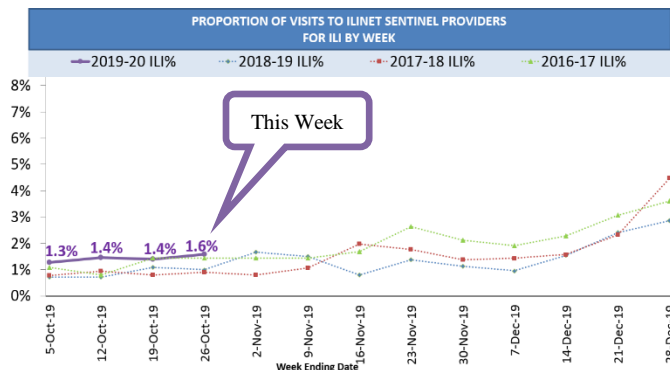
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Activity

No Activity
✓ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

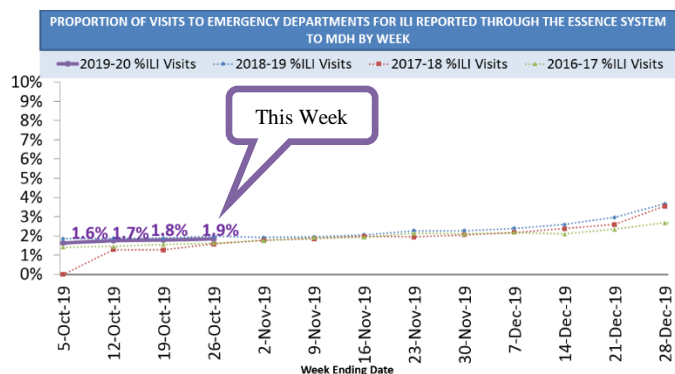
Sixty-one providers reported a total of 46,484 visits this week. Of those, 740 (1.6%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **1.9%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	228 (31%)	197 (30%)	813 (29%)
Age 5-24	209 (28%)	175 (27%)	812 (29%)
Age 25-49	175 (24%)	152 (24%)	670 (24%)
Age 50-64	81 (11%)	67 (10%)	291 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	47 (6%)	55 (9%)	201 (7%)
Total	740 (100%)	646 (100%)	2,787 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 59,835 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 1,109 (1.9%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	278 (25%)	263 (25%)	1,030 (24%)
Age 5-24	332 (30%)	302 (29%)	1,298 (30%)
Age 25-49	308 (28%)	300 (28%)	1,196 (28%)
Age 50-64	128 (12%)	115 (11%)	467 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	63 (6%)	78 (7%)	272 (6%)
Total	1,109 (100%)	1,058 (100%)	4,263 (100%)

Neighboring states' influenza information:

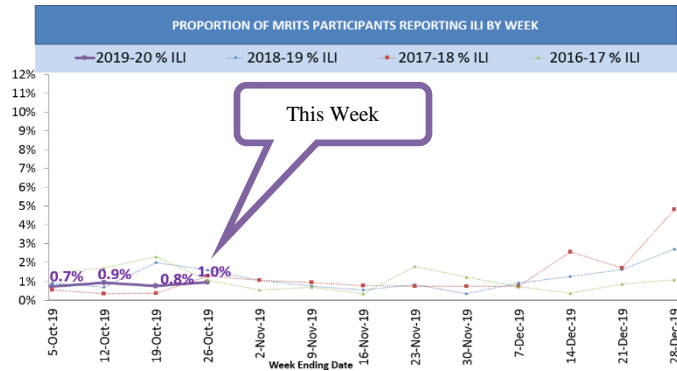
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania <http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/I-L/Pages/Influenza.aspx#.V-LtaPkrJD8>
Virginia <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/influenza-flu-in-virginia/influenza-surveillance/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to MDH for the week ending October 26, 2019

Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

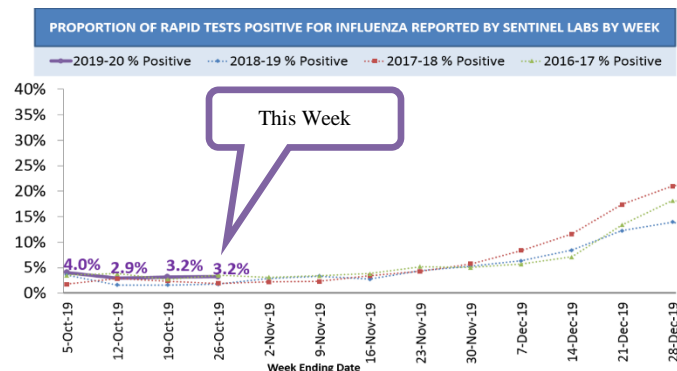
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 521 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 5 (1.0%) reported having ILI and missing 3 days of regular daily activities.



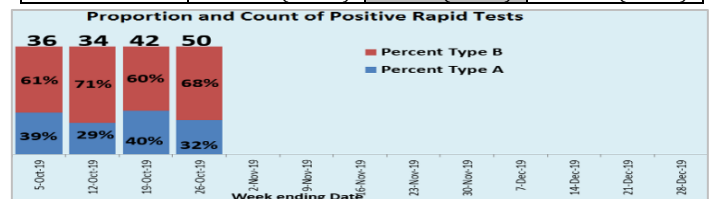
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	2 (40%)	2 (50%)	6 (33%)
Age 5-24	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (6%)
Age 25-49	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	4 (22%)
Age 50-64	1 (20%)	1 (25%)	4 (22%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (20%)	1 (25%)	3 (17%)
Total	5 (100%)	4 (100%)	18 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

There were 67 clinical laboratories reporting 1,545 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 50 (3.2%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 16 (32%) were influenza Type A and 34 (68%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

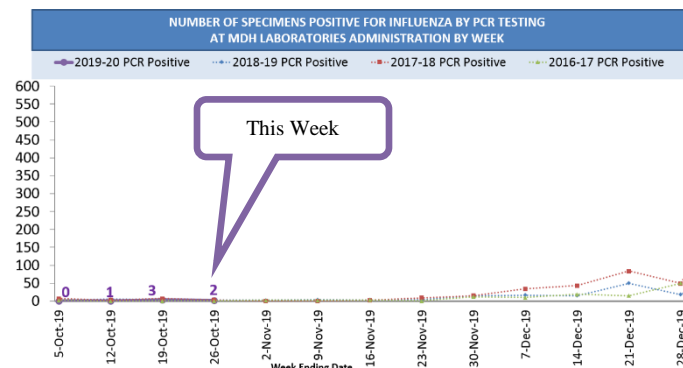


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	16 (32%)	17 (40%)	57 (35%)
Type B	34 (68%)	25 (60%)	105 (65%)
Total	50 (100%)	42 (100%)	162 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The MDH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 32 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests for influenza and two tested positive for influenza. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The MDH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A and lineages of influenza B, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type, subtype, and lineage.



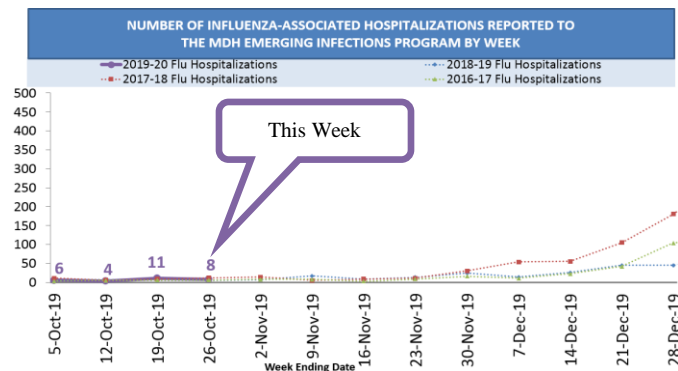
Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	0 (0%)	1 (33%)	1 (17%)
Type A (H3)	2 (100%)	2 (67%)	4 (67%)
Type B (Victoria)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)
Type B (Yamagata)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Dual Type A(H1/H3)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	2 (100%)	3 (100%)	6 (100%)

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to MDH for the week ending October 26, 2019

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

Eight influenza-associated hospitalization cases were reported this week. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g., RIDT or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.) This surveillance is conducted as a component of the Maryland Emerging Infections Program.



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (13%)	2 (18%)	4 (14%)
Age 5-17	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)
Age 18-24	0 (0%)	1 (9%)	1 (3%)
Age 25-49	2 (25%)	2 (18%)	6 (21%)
Age 50-64	2 (25%)	1 (9%)	4 (14%)
Age ≥ 65	3 (38%)	5 (45%)	13 (45%)
Total	8 (100%)	11 (100%)	29 (100%)

Influenza-associated Deaths

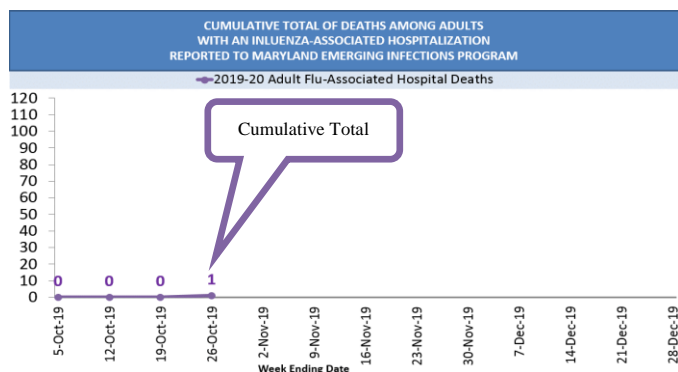
An influenza-associated death is one with a clinically compatible illness and a positive influenza test of any kind.

Pediatric Deaths: No pediatric (< 18 years of age) deaths were reported.

Influenza-associated pediatric mortality is a reportable condition in Maryland. Pediatric deaths are tracked without regard to hospitalization.

Adult Deaths Among Hospitalized Patients: One death has been reported among adults admitted to Maryland hospitals this influenza season.

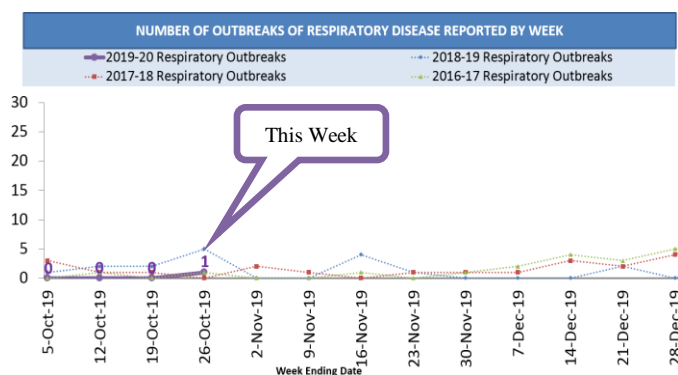
Influenza-associated adult mortality is *not* a reportable condition in Maryland. However, surveillance for mortality in hospitalized adults is conducted as a component of the Maryland Emerging Infections Program.



Influenza-Associated Deaths	Cumulative Season Total
Pediatric Deaths (Age < 18)	0
Adult Deaths (in hospitalized cases)	1

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There was one respiratory outbreak reported to MDH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g., from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Influenza-like Illness	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Pneumonia	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
Other Respiratory	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)

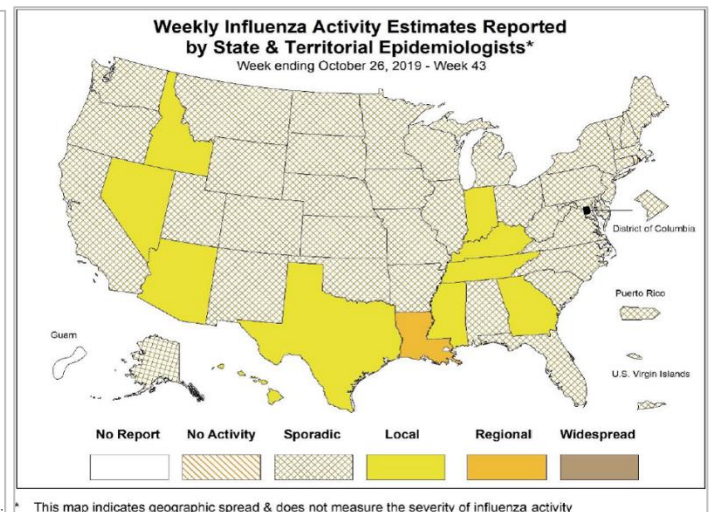
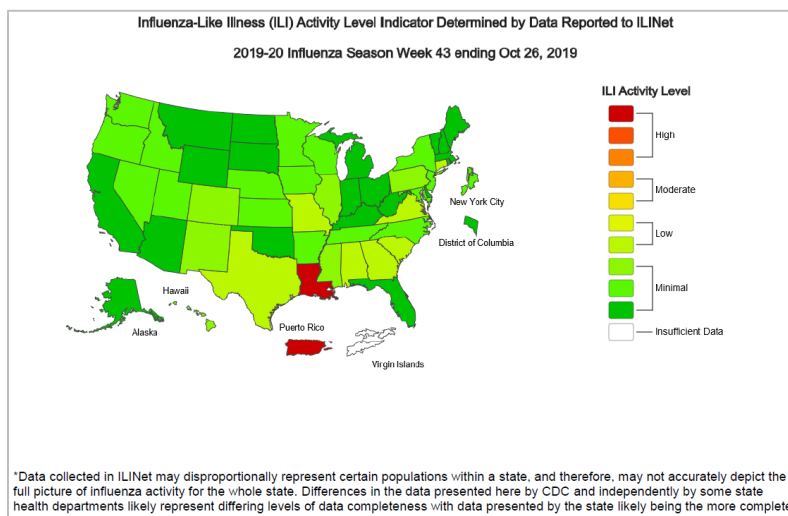
Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to MDH for the week ending October 26, 2019

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

Seasonal influenza activity in the United States increased slightly, but remains low.

- **Viral Surveillance:** Influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B/Victoria viruses have been most common so far, with influenza A(H3N2) viruses slightly outnumbering influenza B/Victoria viruses. 2.4% of respiratory specimens tested in clinical laboratories were positive for influenza viruses. This is slightly higher than the previous week.
- **Influenza-like Illness Surveillance:** 1.9% of visits to a health care provider were for influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI activity is higher than the previous week but remains below the national baseline of 2.4%.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The majority of jurisdictions reported sporadic or local activity; however, Louisiana reported regional activity and Rhode Island reported no activity.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** 5.1% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I). This is below the epidemic threshold of 5.8%.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** No new influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2019-2020 season were reported to CDC this week. The total for the season is 2.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** Nationwide during week 43, 1.9% of patient visits reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This percentage is below the national baseline of 2.4%. (*ILI is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and cough and/or sore throat.*)
- On a regional level, the percentage of outpatient visits for ILI ranged from 1.1% to 3.3% during week 43. All regions reported a percentage of outpatient visits for ILI below their region-specific baselines.



Where to get an influenza vaccination

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2019-20 influenza season? Go to <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.